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NEW YORK STATE SNOWBIRD POPULATION URGED TO BE COUNTED IN CENSUS 2010

“YOU ARE NEW YORK, MAKE YOURSELF COUNT”

*State urges snowbird residents to help New York get its fair share by answering a
Census questionnaire in their home*

The countdown to Census Day 2010 is on and, with less than six months to go, New York State is encouraging New Yorkers who reside out-of-state for the winter months (“snowbirds”) to answer the 2010 Census form they receive at their New York address.

“Making sure you are counted in your home state helps *all* New Yorkers,” said New York State Governor David A. Paterson. “As we continue to deal with these challenging fiscal times, the appropriate distribution of money to our state and fair representation in Washington is crucial as we look ahead to recovery. Being counted could make all the difference in how we move forward in the years to come.”

The 2010 Census is critical for New York. Federal estimates suggest that over 202,000 New Yorkers were not counted in the 2000 census, including more than 103,000 New York City residents, despite aggressive government and community-based efforts to reduce the 2000 census undercount. Census information determines the allocation of more than \$400 billion in federal funding each year for community programs and services such as education, housing and community development, health care, services for the elderly, job training and more. New York State also faces the possibility of losing two Congressional seats after the 2010 Census. It is possible to retain that second seat and get our fair share of funding by obtaining an accurate Census count in 2010.

“An accurate count of our New York residents-including those who leave the state during the winter months will mean better infrastructure, more services and ultimately a chance for New Yorker’s to have their voices heard,” said Empire State Development CEO and Chairman designate, Dennis M. Mullen. “Additionally, the information that’s provided will help us see how New York State has changed since the last Census in 2000 and will influence our state’s economic goals and direction going forward.”

"There will be significant financial and political impacts for our state if New York residents are not counted here in next year's Census," said New York Secretary of State and Chair of the New York 2010 Census Acton Council Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez. "We need an accurate count so that our state will receive the federal funding, representation, and influence it deserves."

The New York State business community also uses Census information for location analysis, planning, marketing, labor force projections and more. Local and state governments use census information for planning and to allocate funds for new school construction, libraries and other public buildings, highway safety and public transportation systems, new roads and bridges, location of police and fire departments, and many other projects.

New Yorkers should be aware of the following:

- Questionnaires are delivered by mail or Census enumerators to *ALL* addresses nationwide in mid-March. The Census Bureau counts residents at their primary place of residence—the place where they live and sleep most of the time. This is decided by the individual when completing their Census form. By using their New York address, New Yorkers benefit their home state.
- New York snowbirds will receive a 2010 Census questionnaire at *both* their New York and snowbird seasonal addresses. If you spend six months or more in New York, *wait* until you return home to New York to fill out the form.
- The Census Bureau will hand-deliver questionnaires to the addresses in many rural areas of New York. The United States Post Office will NOT forward Census 2010 questionnaires.

The U.S. Census counts every resident nationwide and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. The Census on April 1, 2010 will be the 23rd in our country's history and the Census Bureau expects to count more than 19.5 million New Yorkers. The Census questionnaire is fast, easy and confidential. In fact, the 2010 form will be one of the shortest ever -- there are only 10 questions, requiring about 10 minutes to complete.

For more information, call the U.S. Census Bureau at 617-223-3610 or for New York City, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties call 212-356-3100.

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit www.nylovesbiz.com.

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